

Nitterhouse Aids Innovative Residence

BETHESDA, MD.

A revolutionary design for a residence is under construction, created by architect **Robert M. Gurney**. The \$4-million project, built into a hillside overlooking the Potomac River, is using a wide range of construction materials, including precast concrete components. The project is to be completed by July.

Nitterhouse Concrete Products Inc. in Chambersburg, Pa., has supplied its ConCoreFloor hollowcore plank for the project, and it is being used for all flooring units, as well as for the cantilevered pool deck. The hollowcore slabs allowed the designer to create 9-foot ceiling heights, which is one foot taller than standard construction can provide in the township, according to Nitterhouse spokesperson Fran Edgar.

Local restrictions have reduced total building heights to 30 feet, forcing builders to use 8-foot ceilings in new construction when using 16-inch wood-floor joist systems. That creates problems for owners of upscale homes, who expect taller ceilings. The capability of hollowcore to incorporate ceiling/flooring units into one piece extends the ceiling's height.



Three Companies Join AltusGroup

BALTIMORE

Two precasters and a building-material company have joined the partnership of companies that comprise AltusGroup, makers of CarbonCast precast concrete components. The new precasters are **The Shockey Precast Group**, based in Winchester, Va., and **Blakeslee Prestress**, based in Branford, Conn. **Owens Corning** of Toledo, Ohio, has also joined as an Innovation Partner.

The companies will use CarbonCast technology, which replaces steel with a non-corrosive, high-strength carbon-fiber grid as secondary reinforcing. More than 6 million square feet of products have been erected or sold since AltusGroup was formed in 2004.

Oldcastle To Produce Multiple Cells

TELFORD, PA.

The **Oldcastle Precast Modular Group** has been selected to provide fully outfitted precast concrete prison cells for the expansion or creation of several correctional facilities. The projects, now being fabricated, include:

- The 230,000-square-foot Hall County Detention Center in Gainesville, Ga., will feature two six-story housing units consisting of four-bed cells similar to dormitory-style modules. The units will be fabricated at the company's Jacksonville, Fla., plant and will arrive at the site with windows, furniture and light fixtures installed and all painting completed. The architect is **Clemons Rutherford & Associates** of Tallahassee, Fla., with **Turner Construction** of Atlanta serving as construction manager.
- A 1,896-bed, \$100-million six-building facility for Corrections Corporation of America in Eloy, Ariz. The precaster will supply 1,032 precast concrete prison cells from its Chandler, Ariz., plant. Oldcastle has already produced modules for the company's Red Rock Correctional Facility adjacent to this project, which is currently finishing construction. The modules will be outfitted with all materials as with the Hall County modules. **DLR Group** of Omaha, Neb., is the architect on the project, with **Moss & Associates** of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., serving as general contractor. Red Rock will be completed in fall 2006, with the newer project completed in the second half of 2007.
- A 360-bed detached, two-story addition to its existing 398-bed facility in Lecanto, Fla. for Citrus County. The \$18.5-million project will house U.S. Marshals Service inmates until the county can use the beds. Oldcastle is supplying 180 two-cell prison cells and six precast shower modules. The units will be fabricated at the Jacksonville, Fla., plant. The facility is operated by Corrections Corporation of America. On this project, too, **DLR Group** is the architect, while **Moss & Associates** serves as general contractor.

The precaster has also introduced a suicide-prevention prison cell module, which eliminates or minimizes hanging points and unsupervised access to lethal materials. It can withstand extreme physical abuse, clever entry, concealment attempts and repeated tampering.

Spancrete Sponsors Design Course at UW-Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE

The Spancrete Group Inc., has sponsored a course through the **University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, School of Architecture and Urban Planning**. Titled “Spancrete Studio,” the class was co-taught by Acting Associate Dean Gil Snyder and Assistant Adjunct Professor Matthew Jarosz. It is designed for advanced students and explores the role of architectural and structural precast concrete technology in today’s design community.

As part of the company’s sponsorship commitment, Spancrete has agreed to provide guest lecturers from the industry, technical information from industry sources, plant tours, job site tours and hands-on exposure to current projects in Wisconsin and Illinois. The semester-long course was limited to 12 students and required that they be enrolled in graduate level courses, or have achieved a junior/senior status.

The course was offered for the first time in fall of 2005. Students were assigned two individual projects — a condo development and an office building — for which they would use precast concrete. The class was divided into teams for a project to create a design for covered bleachers for the campus soccer stadium. Instructors and students felt that the course was a success and the university has agreed to offer it for the next two fall semesters.



Fabcon Supplies Retail Panels

SAVAGE, MINN.

Fabcon is supplying precast concrete wall panels for four retail facilities in Kansas, Wisconsin and Minnesota. The stores will use the company’s lightweight VersaCore Plus wall panels that provide high thermal efficiency and structural design flexibility.

A Nebraska Furniture Mart will feature more than 103,000 square feet of precast concrete panels on an addition to its Kansas City, Kan., facility. Construction began in December. Fabcon also is providing Tangers Mall (near Wisconsin Dells) with more than 71,000 square feet of panels for the shopping center.

Two Target stores (in Knollwood in St. Louis Park, Minn., and Fridley, Minn.) will use about 116,000 square feet of panels combined. The erection began in February in St. Louis Park and early March in Fridley. The stores are two of 16 projects that Fabcon currently has underway with Target.